

BUCKLEY *Strange Bedfellows*

New York—Sen. Henry Jackson, a pillar of sanity in matters that relate to the national defense, has been touring Idaho in support of the re-election campaign of Sen. **Frank Church**. Read that one and weep.

You can look at it statistically if statistics are your party doll. During Church's tenure there have been 60 Senate votes on matters directly related to defense: procurement, research, development programs involving the Trident, the long-range Tomahawk, cruise missiles, F-14s, marine carriers, XM-1 tanks—the paraphernalia we need to give strength to permit firmness in developing our foreign policy. Church voted against the military requests 49 times. On 45 of those votes, Jackson voted against Church.

Now, senators of the same party have often disagreed, but regular, systematic, obsessive neglect of the military is a serious delinquency in the eyes of Jackson—or so he tells us. But there he is in Idaho, arguing for the re-election of Church when the alternative is Rep. Steven D. Symms, who has voted on Jackson's side on the military on virtually every occasion. What does Church have that Symms doesn't? He is a Democrat.

If statistics bore you, what about a politician's gullibility? In 1977, Church went to Cuba, and Romeo never said to Juliet sweeter things than Church said about Fidel Castro. Castro took three days off from torturing the Cuban people in order to give Church a personally escorted tour of the Cuban fortress. At the end he gave Church gifts, including special cigars not otherwise available, and said handsome things about him.

Church, who is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said of Castro: "I found his views to be reasonable, objective and surprisingly moderate . . . [He] is a man of dignity with a great sense of justice." To

the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, of the extinction of Laos. All that, and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. But it didn't satisfy him to lay waste to Southeast Asia and do his best to gut the American military. He singlehandedly contributed—through his investigating committee—more than any other man to the collapse of U.S. counterintelligence capabilities.

Church is going about Idaho like Paul Revere, warning of communism in the Caribbean, and other dreadful threats. "General" Church, they call the man who is running for re-election—so that, on returning to Washington, he can resume his career as Neville Chamberlain. He wants desperately to win, and is neck and neck with Symms. Those who know Jackson will refuse to believe that, in his heart of hearts, he wants Church, at this point in history, to occupy so critical a Senate seat.

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say this about a totalitarian 17 years after he came to power, about a Communist of such studied cruelty, reduces **Frank Church** to moral idiocy. Does Jackson really want as head of the Foreign Relations Committee someone who has acted as altar boy for Fidel Castro?

Jackson warned years ago that the loss of Southeast Asia would have worldwide repercussions. He was right. Why did we lose Southeast Asia? History will point to one piece of legislation as decisive: the Church-Case Amendment, which specified that the U.S. take "no military action over or on the ground, or in the air, or off the shores of Laos, Cambodia or South Vietnam."

Frank Church is the vodafone of the boat people, of
